(e) the loss sustained by different public sector steel plants during the last three years; and

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): (a) to (c) Some of the Public Sector Steel Plants including Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) are running in losses. These are as under:—

Sail Plants	Year Since When Losses are incurred
Durgapur Steel Plant	1982-83
Rourkela Steel Plant	1995-96
Alloy Steels Plant	1996-97
Salem Steel Plant	1996-97
Sail's Subsidiaries	
Indian Iron & Steel Co.	1975-76
Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Co.	1991-92
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	
Visakhapatnam Steel Plant	1992-93

(d) Major reasons for losses in these plants include slow down in demand for steel, greater competition from imports, and enhancement in supplies in domestic market, increase in input prices and higher interest cost etc. which could not be fully neutralised by better techno-economic parameters, cost reduction measures and increase in the prices of steel. Some of these plants are operating with old and obsolete technology.

(e) and (f) The financial losses incurred by these plants during the past three years are as under:—

Unit : Rs. in Crores

Plant	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Durgapur Steel Plant	(-) 174	(-) 236	(-) 509
Rourkela Steel Plant	(-) 57	(-) 316	(-) 374
Alloy Steels Plant	(+) 1	(-) 67	(-) 88
Salem Steel Plant	(+) 4	(-) 38	(-) 120
Indian Iron & Steel Co.	(-) 49	(-) 213	(-) 395
Visavesvaraya Iron & Steel Co.	(-) 37	(-) 102	(-) 84
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	(-) 204	(-) 246	(-) 177

(+) Profit
(-) Loss

Closure of Bisra Lime stone Ltd. in Orissa

109. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Bisra Lime Stone Ltd., Birmitrapur, once the best and biggest in Asia under Sundargarh District in Orissa is on the verge of closures;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that out of seven thousand workers once, the present strength has come down to only 2500;

(c) if so, whether Government have any proposal to revive the Mines;

(d) whether Government have any proposal to sanction a package to improve the mines; and

(e) if so, the total amount proposed and the time schedule for the release of fund?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): (a) Bisra Stone Lime Company Limited a unit of erstwhile Bird & Company Limited is passing through a severe financial crisis due to shrinkage of demand of its products.

(b) Excess workforce had been identified as the one of the major reasons for the losses of Bisra Stone Lime Company Limited. As such the workforce had to be rationalised in tune with the demand position.

(c) to (e) Government of India is extending financial support to Bisra Stone Lime Company Limited by way of Plan loan, Non Plan loan and Grant-in-Aid. Revival of company is linked with demand position. The present position of Bisra Stone Lime Company Limited is expected to improve with the growth of Steel industry.

Proposal for Steel Plants in Orissa

110. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of steel plants proposed to be set up in Orissa;

(b) the public sector as well as private sector companies participating in the establishment of these steel plants;

(c) the plans finalised for the location of these steel plants;

(d) the land aquired for the purpose; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): (a) to (e) According to available information, 14 iron and steel projects are proposed to be set up in Orissa. Of these, one project viz. M/s Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. is in joint sector, and others are in private sector. Relevant details in respect of name of the participating companies, locations and land required/acquired are given below:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Location	Land required/ acquired (acres)
1.	Mid-East Integrated Steel Ltd. (MESCO Group)	Duburi, Jajpur dist.	584.70/570.70
2.	Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. (MMTC, Govt. of Orissa & MECON)	-do-	2732/2682.11
3.	Bhusan Steel & Strips Ltd.	-do-	1925
4.	MESCO-Kalinga Steel Ltd. (MESCO Group)	-do-	3100/1750
5.	Uttam Steel Ltd.	-do-	3000/2500
6.	Indian Seamless Steels & Alloys Ltd.	-do-	2500
7.	Orient Steels Ltd.	-do-	300
8.	Brahmani Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.	-do-	540/300
9.	Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.	Gopalpur, Ganjam Dist.	6500/3756
10.	Larsen & Toubro Ltd.	-do-	5006
11.	National Steel Industries Ltd.	Nayagarh, Keonjhar Dist.	946
12.	Bamra Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.	Bamra, Sambalpur Dist.	710
13.	Mid-West Steels Ltd.	Bileipada, Keonjhar Dist.	800
14.	Jindal Strips Ltd.	Budhapanka, Angul Dist.	850

Performance of SAIL

111. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the financial performance of the Steel Authority of India during 1997-98, plant-wise;

(b) whether the profitability of the SAIL has declined during the current year as compared to that of the last year;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to improve the performance of SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): (a) The plant-wise financial performance of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during 1997-98 is as under:

(Rupees in Crores)

Plant	1997-98
Bhilai Steel Plant	701
Durgapur Steel Plant	(-)509
Rourkela Steel Plant	(-)374
Bokaro Steel Plant	367
Alloy Steels Plant	(-)88
Salem Steel Plant	(-)120
Raw Materials Division & Central Unit	171

(b) During the first half of 1998-99, SAIL has incurred a loss of Rs. 617 crores compared to profit of Rs. 54 crores during the same period in 1997-98.

(c) The main reasons for decline in profits in SAIL include slow down in demand for steel, greater competition from imports, and enhancement in supplies in domestic market etc. Further, the profits were adversely affected due to increase in input prices and higher interest cost which could not be fully neutralised by better techno-economic parameters, cost reduction measures and increase in the prices of steel, etc.

(d) SAIL has taken number of steps to improve the performance, which inter-alia include reduction in cost by improving the techno-economic parameters, demand oriented production, improving quality of products, and